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27195	7590	03/26/2007	EXAMINER	
AMIN. TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP 24TH FLOOR, NATIONAL CITY CENTER 1900 EAST NINTH STREET CLEVELAND, OH 44114			THERIAULT, STEVEN B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2179	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/743,601	VENOLIA, GINA D.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Steven B. Theriault	<b>Art Unit</b> 2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2003.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                    2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6)  Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.  
7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 2003 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: Non-provisional application filed 12/22/2003.
2. Claims 1 -34 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 23, 31, 32, and 33 are the independent claims.

***Drawings***

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: 280 shown in figure 2. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement-drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

4. **The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:**

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

Dependent claims 24-30 are rejected for being improper hybrid claims. The claims contain both method and system as the subject matter, since in line 1 of claim 22 from which 24-30 depend shows, "The system of ..." and claims 24-30 refer to "the method as defined..." line 1 of claims 24-30. See *Ex parte Lyell*, 17 USPQ2d 1548. Perhaps the applicant intended to have claims 24-30 depend from claim 23 and the Examiner will use the assumption in the rejection below.

Claim 34 is also an improper hybrid claim as it is a method claim that depends from a system claim.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-29 and 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The language of the claims raise a question as to whether the claims are directed merely to an abstract idea that is not tied to a technological art, environment or machine which would result in a practical application producing a concrete, useful and tangible result to form the basis of statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. 101.

With regard to **claims 1-22**, claims 1-22 recite claim limitations that are not directed to a statutory class of invention as the claimed system refers to software components in a system. The system is not a process, machine, article of manufacture or composition of matter because it appears that the structure to make the content available is not claimed and is software *per se*.

With regard to **claims 23 - 29**, claims 23-29 recites a method that does not appear to provide a tangible result because it is not clear in the claim that the method steps are actually realized and provide a real world result. A claimed invention is directed to a practical application of a 35 U.S.C. 101 judicial exception when it:

- (A) "transforms" an article or physical object to a different state or thing; or
- (B) otherwise produces a useful, concrete and tangible result,

The steps recite a method for receiving content and organizing it but the method limitations do not recite a real world step that transforms the packet into a useful, tangible, and concrete result and could be software *per se*.

With regard to **claim 31**, claims 31 recites claim limitations that are not directed to a statutory class of invention as the claimed system refers to a data packet. The data packet is not a process, machine, article of manufacture or composition of matter.

With regard to **claim 33**, claim 33 recites claim limitations that are not directed to a statutory class of invention as the claimed system refers to software components in a system. The system is not a process, machine, article of manufacture or composition of matter because it appears that the structure to make the content available is not claimed and is software *per se*. The applicant invokes the 112 6<sup>th</sup> clause by having a means for receiving content and organizing content with the system. It appears, using claims 1, 31-32 as evidence that applicant intends the structure of claim 33 to software subroutines and it is not clear which structure that the claim is directed to as specified in the specification.

**To expedite a complete examination of the instant application the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C 101 (nonstatutory) above are further rejected as set forth below in anticipation of applicant amending these claims to place them within the four statutory categories of invention.**

*Specification*

6. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter (See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o)). Correction of the following is required: The data packet and the computer readable medium recited in claims 31 and 32, respectively, are not explicitly defined within the specification and lacks antecedent basis in the specification "so that the meaning of the terms in the claims may be ascertainable by reference to the description" (See 1.58(a)).

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

7. **The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:**

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. **Claims 1-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bellotti et al. U.S. Patent No. 7,139,800 issued Nov. 21, 2006 and filed Jan. 16, 2002.**

In regard to **Independent claim 1**, Bellotti teaches a system that facilitates content management, comprising:

- A component that receives content (Bellotti column 5, lines 25-67). Bellotti teaches a taskmaster component that comprises subcomponents (thrasks) that receive content (See also figure 10).

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- An organization component that partitions and makes available the content as part of at least the following clusters: (1) unaccessed content, (2) un-accessed and pending content (3) pending content, and (4) accessed content (Bellotti column 6, lines 1-10 and column 9, lines 40-67 and column 10, lines 20-30). Bellotti teaches that items organized by thrask have color codings that relate the status to the user that the messages in blue have been opened or accessed. The messages in black have been unopened or not accessed. Bellotti also teaches a thrask containing pending items (See figure 9, top).

Bellotti does not expressly teach an example:

A unaccessed and pending cluster

However, this limitation would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Bellotti, because Bellotti teaches that thrasks can be created by the user to monitor any given topic or category or combination thereof (See column 17, lines 37-52) thus providing the structure to allow for a thrask having information that have a variety of status attributes.

Further, the present application specification defines an "unaccessed and pending cluster as including aspects of the unaccessed and pending clusters. The unaccessed cluster supports the users initial activity in determining what to do with a message and the pending cluster keeps track of reminders or pending items (See Para 0032-0033). Using the intrinsic definition, Bellotti teaches the process of displaying a pending thrask that keeps track of calendar items and items that will need follow up at a later date (See figure 9, 14-15 and column 9, lines 29-40). Bellotti also teaches a default thrask that receives all incoming messages and either automatically filters the item into a thrask or allows the user to place it into a thrask. Then the system displays a color coding that indicates the status of the message as to whether it has been opened or not by the user. Therefore, the pending thrask can have items in it that are follow up messages that the user has not opened or the user can create an unopened and pending thrask and set the system to automatically filter the items to the unaccessed and pending thrask (See column 10, lines 20-30).

With respect to **dependent claim 2**, Bellotti teaches the system the clusters of content are hierarchically displayed in the following order: (1) unaccessed, (2) unaccessed and pending, (3) pending, and (4) accessed (Bellotti column 9, lines 47-56). Bellotti teaches that tasks can be organized and dragged into a configuration that the user desires, which would allow the information to be displayed in any order.

With respect to **dependent claim 3**, Bellotti teaches the system the content comprising messages (Bellotti column 2, lines 5-10).

With respect to **dependent claim 4**, Bellotti teaches the system the content comprising media (Bellotti column 3, lines 13-15) Bellotti teaches the messages can comprise video and audio, which is media.

With respect to **dependent claim 5**, Bellotti teaches the system comprising computer-based applications (Bellotti column 4, lines 10-21 and column 15, lines 5-12).

With respect to

With respect to **dependent claims 6 - 18**, as indicated in the above discussion Bellotti teaches every limitation of claim 1.

Bellotti does not expressly teach that the system content within a cluster is organized based at least in part on priority, preference, utility, cost, author, genre, criticality, age, context, size, rendering device, combination of two preferences, and user state.

However, this limitation would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Bellotti, because each of these attributes represent either a user preference or a metadata attribute or heuristic of the data within the mail content. Bellotti teaches the ability to access and view items based on metadata values (See column 4, lines 50-57).

Bellotti teaches the metadata can include: sender, subject, data, priority, task-info, deadlines, date, thrask ID, etc., which suggests to the skilled artisan that Thrasks can have any metadata field or attribute. Additionally, and the mail system of Bellotti teaches a combination of an Outlook Email client and a Taskmaster system that can comprise all of the fields of the Outlook client including, size, sender, priority, etc. that would further allow for information to be organized with

the Outlook defined fields. Further Bellotti teaches that the thrasks can be user defined to allow the user to see the type of message, identity, age, and other attributes of the messages and allows the user to decide what terms should be represented as thrasks.

With respect to **dependent claim 19**, Bellotti teaches the system where the content is dynamically organized (Bellotti column 16, lines 35-40).

With respect to **dependent claim 20**, Bellotti teaches the system further comprising a cluster filtering component operatively connected between the receiving component and the organization component comprising one or more filters that directs content to at least one of the four clusters based at least in part upon user preferences (Bellotti column 7, lines 10-15 and column 16, lines 35-60). Bellotti teaches a mail-handling module that directs content to a given thrask.

With respect to **dependent claim 21**, Bellotti teaches the system that the cluster-filtering component is trained using at least one of explicit user input or implicit user behavior (column 7, lines 54-67 and column 8, lines -27)

With respect to **dependent claim 22**, Bellotti teaches the system that one of the four clusters comprises at least one sub-filter that facilitates organizing content within any one of the clusters (column 15, lines 1-20).

In regard to **Independent claim 23**, Bellotti teaches a method that facilitates content management comprising:

- Receiving content (Bellotti column 5, lines 25-67). Bellotti teaches a taskmaster component that comprises subcomponents (thrasks) that receive content (See also figure 10).
- Organizing content as part of at least one of the following clusters: (1) unaccessed content, (3) pending content, and (4) accessed content (Bellotti column 6, lines 1-10 and column 9, lines 40-67 and column 10, lines 20-30). Bellotti teaches that items organized by thrask have color codings that relate the status to the user that the messages in blue have been opened or accessed. The messages in black have been unopened or not accessed. Bellotti also teaches a thrask containing pending items (See figure 9, top).

Bellotti does not expressly teach an example:

A unaccessed and pending cluster

However, this limitation would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Bellotti, because Bellotti teaches that thrasks can be created by the user to monitor any given topic or category or combination thereof (See column 17, lines 37-52) thus providing the structure to allow for a thrask having information that have a variety of status attributes.

Further, the present application specification defines an "unaccessed and pending cluster" as including aspects of the unaccessed and pending clusters. The unaccessed cluster supports the user's initial activity in determining what to do with a message and the pending cluster keeps track of reminders or pending items (See Para 0032-0033). Using the intrinsic definition, Bellotti teaches the process of displaying a pending thrask that keeps track of calendar items and items that will need follow up at a later date (See figure 9, 14-15 and column 9, lines 29-40). Bellotti also teaches a default thrask that receives all incoming messages and either automatically filters the item into a thrask or allows the user to place it into a thrask. Then the system displays a color-coding that indicates the status of the message as to whether it has been opened or not by the user. Therefore, the pending thrask can have items in it that are follow up messages that the user has not opened or the user can create an unopened and pending thrask and set the system to automatically filter the items to the unaccessed and pending thrask (See column 10, lines 20-30).

With respect to **dependent claim 24**, Bellotti teaches the method where clusters of content are hierarchically displayed in the following order: (1) unaccessed, (2) unaccessed and pending, (3) pending, and (4) accessed (Bellotti column 9, lines 47-56). Bellotti teaches that tasks can be organized and dragged into a configuration that the user desires, which would allow the information to be displayed in any order.

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With respect to **dependent claim 25**, Bellotti teaches the method further comprising employing one or more filters to organize at least a portion of the content as part of at least one of the clusters.

With respect to **dependent claim 26**, Bellotti teaches the method where the content comprises messages (Bellotti column 2, lines 5-10).

With respect to **dependent claim 27**, Bellotti teaches the method where the content comprises computer-based applications (Bellotti column 4, lines 10-21 and column 15, lines 5-12).

With respect to **dependent claim 28**, as indicated in the above discussion Bellotti teaches every limitation of claim 23.

Bellotti does not expressly teach that the system content within a cluster is organized based at least in part on priority, preference, utility, cost, author, genre, criticality, age, context, size, rendering device, combination of two preferences, and user state.

However, this limitation would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Bellotti, because each of these attributes represent either a user preference or a metadata attribute or heuristic of the data within the mail content. Bellotti teaches the ability to access and view items based on metadata values (See column 4, lines 50-57).

Bellotti teaches the metadata can include: sender, subject, data, priority, task-info, deadlines, date, thrask ID, etc., which suggests to the skilled artisan that Thrasks can have any metadata field or attribute. Additionally, and the mail system of Bellotti teaches a combination of an Outlook Email client and a Taskmaster system that can comprise all of the fields of the Outlook client including, size, sender, priority, etc. that would further allow for information to be organized with the Outlook defined fields. Further Bellotti teaches that the thrasks can be user defined to allow the user to see the type of message, identity, age, and other attributes of the messages and allows the user to decide what terms should be represented as thrasks.

With respect to **dependent claim 29**, Bellotti teaches the method where further comprising adding one or more visual indicators to at least one cluster to facilitate content viewing and management (Bellotti column 9, lines 45-55 and Figure 9 and 10).

With respect to **dependent claim 30**, Bellotti teaches the method further comprising making content and/or a copy thereof available for arrangement into more than one cluster (column 7, lines 1-22).

In regard to **Independent claim 31**, Bellotti teaches a data packet adapted to be transmitted between two or more computer processes facilitating providing suggestions to an online user, the data packet (See column 3, lines 18-25) comprising:

- Information associated with receiving content (Bellotti column 5, lines 25-67). Bellotti teaches a taskmaster component that comprises subcomponents (thrasks) that receive content (See also figure 10).
- Organizing content as part of at least one of the following clusters: (1) unaccessed content, (3) pending content, and (4) accessed content (Bellotti column 6, lines 1-10 and column 9, lines 40-67 and column 10, lines 20-30). Bellotti teaches that items organized by thrask have color codings that relate the status to the user that the messages in blue have been opened or accessed. The messages in black have been unopened or not accessed. Bellotti also teaches a thrask containing pending items (See figure 9, top).

Bellotti does not expressly teach an example:

A unaccessed and pending cluster

However, this limitation would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Bellotti, because Bellotti teaches that thrasks can be created by the user to monitor any given topic or category or combination thereof (See column 17, lines 37-52) thus providing the structure to allow for a thrask having information that have a variety of status attributes.

Further, the present application specification defines an "unaccessed and pending cluster as including aspects of the unaccessed and pending clusters. The unaccessed cluster supports

the user's initial activity in determining what to do with a message and the pending cluster keeps track of reminders or pending items (See Para 0032-0033). Using the intrinsic definition, Bellotti teaches the process of displaying a pending thrask that keeps track of calendar items and items that will need follow up at a later date (See figure 9, 14-15 and column 9, lines 29-40). Bellotti also teaches a default thrask that receives all incoming messages and either automatically filters the item into a thrask or allows the user to place it into a thrask. Then the system displays a color-coding that indicates the status of the message as to whether it has been opened or not by the user. Therefore, the pending thrask can have items in it that are follow up messages that the user has not opened or the user can create an unopened and pending thrask and set the system to automatically filter the items to the unaccessed and pending thrask (See column 10, lines 20-30).

In regard to **Independent claim 32**, Bellotti teaches a computer-readable medium (Figure 19) having stored (See column 20, lines 30-45) thereon the following computer executable components:

- A component that receives content (Bellotti column 5, lines 25-67). Bellotti teaches a taskmaster component that comprises subcomponents (thrasks) that receive content (See also figure 10).
- Organizing content as part of at least one of the following clusters: (1) unaccessed content, (3) pending content, and (4) accessed content (Bellotti column 6, lines 1-10 and column 9, lines 40-67 and column 10, lines 20-30). Bellotti teaches that items organized by thrask have color codings that relate the status to the user that the messages in blue have been opened or accessed. The messages in black have been unopened or not accessed. Bellotti also teaches a thrask containing pending items (See figure 9, top).

Bellotti does not expressly teach an example:

A unaccessed and pending cluster

However, this limitation would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Bellotti, because Bellotti teaches that thrasks can be created by the user to monitor any given topic or category or combination thereof (See column 17, lines 37-52) thus providing the structure to allow for a thrask having information that have a variety of status attributes.

Further, the present application specification defines an "unaccessed and pending cluster as including aspects of the unaccessed and pending clusters. The unaccessed cluster supports the users initial activity in determining what to do with a message and the pending cluster keeps track of reminders or pending items (See Para 0032-0033). Using the intrinsic definition, Bellotti teaches the process of displaying a pending thrask that keeps track of calendar items and items that will need follow up at a later date (See figure 9, 14-15 and column 9, lines 29-40). Bellotti also teaches a default thrask that receives all incoming messages and either automatically filters the item into a thrask or allows the user to place it into a thrask. Then the system displays a color-coding that indicates the status of the message as to whether it has been opened or not by the user. Therefore, the pending thrask can have items in it that are follow up messages that the user has not opened or the user can create an unopened and pending thrask and set the system to automatically filter the items to the unaccessed and pending thrask (See column 10, lines 20-30).

In regard to **Independent claim 33**, Bellotti teaches a system that facilitates content management comprising:

- Means for receiving content (Bellotti column 5, lines 25-67). Bellotti teaches a taskmaster component that comprises subcomponents (thrasks) that receive content (See also figure 10). Bellotti teaches network connection and an email client used for the purposes of receiving email messages.
- Means for organizing content as part of at least one of the following clusters: (1) unaccessed content, (3) pending content, and (4) accessed content (Bellotti column 6, lines 1-10 and column 9, lines 40-67 and column 10, lines 20-30). Bellotti teaches that

items organized by thrask have color codings that relate the status to the user that the messages in blue have been opened or accessed. The messages in black have been unopened or not accessed. Bellotti also teaches a thrask containing pending items (See figure 9, top). Bellotti teaches an email organizing system and a means for organizing and displaying the information in a format defined by the user (See figure 10).

Bellotti does not expressly teach an example:

A unaccessed and pending cluster

However, this limitation would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, in view of Bellotti, because Bellotti teaches that thrasks can be created by the user to monitor any given topic or category or combination thereof (See column 17, lines 37-52) thus providing the structure to allow for a thrask having information that have a variety of status attributes.

Further, the present application specification defines an "unaccessed and pending cluster as including aspects of the unaccessed and pending clusters. The unaccessed cluster supports the users initial activity in determining what to do with a message and the pending cluster keeps track of reminders or pending items (See Para 0032-0033). Using the intrinsic definition, Bellotti teaches the process of displaying a pending thrask that keeps track of calendar items and items that will need follow up at a later date (See figure 9, 14-15 and column 9, lines 29-40). Bellotti also teaches a default thrask that receives all incoming messages and either automatically filters the item into a thrask or allows the user to place it into a thrask. Then the system displays a color-coding that indicates the status of the message as to whether it has been opened or not by the user. Therefore, the pending thrask can have items in it that are follow up messages that the user has not opened or the user can create an unopened and pending thrask and set the system to automatically filter the items to the unaccessed and pending thrask (See column 10, lines 20-30). With respect to **dependent claim 34**, Bellotti teaches the method where the clusters of content are hierarchically displayed in the following order: (1) unaccessed, (2) unaccessed and pending, (3) pending, and (4) accessed (Bellotti column 9, lines 47-56). Bellotti teaches that tasks can be

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organized and dragged into a configuration that the user desires, which would allow for the information to be displayed in any order.

**It is noted that any citation to specific, pages, columns, lines, or figures in the prior art references and any interpretation of the references should not be considered to be limiting in any way. A reference is relevant for all it contains and may be relied upon for all that it would have reasonably suggested to one having ordinary skill in the art. In re Heck, 699 F.2d 1331, 1332-33,216 USPQ 1038, 1039 (Fed. Cir. 1983) (quoting In re Lemelson, 397 F.2d 1006,1009, 158 USPQ 275, 277 (CCPA 1968)).**

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven B. Theriault whose telephone number is (571) 272-5867. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Weilun Lo can be reached on (571) 272-4847. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SBT



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER